

powerful as the first two. Both Brazil and the United States are nations of immigrants. Although your native language is Portuguese and ours is English, nevertheless our populations are made up of people who have come to our two nations from all the countries of the world. You here in Petropolis have visual proof of this fact before you every day as you read the names engraved on the obelisk that dominates your magnificent central square. Men and women from all over Europe—and from Asia and Africa too—have come to Brazil, as they have come to the United States, to devote their lives and their talents to the creation of a great and new nation. Few nations in the world are fortunate enough to possess the strengths that come from a population mixture that represents a true multi-national melting pot. You in Brazil and we in the United States both possess such a heritage, and we both value it highly.

With all of these attributes in common, it seems hard to believe that the rank and file members of our two societies have been so long getting to know each other intimately. Federal government and business officials have, of course, long commuted regularly between Brazil and the United States. But the ordinary citizens of our two nations still have all too few opportunities to get to know one another on an individual and personal basis. This opportunity has now been afforded us, at least in a greater degree than heretofore, by the Partners of the Alliance Program. This Program has already resulted in an exchange of numerous visits between citizens of the State of Rio and citizens of Maryland, and I am sure that these initial contacts represent only the beginnings of many, many more still to come.

My own trip here, I believe, represents an entirely new role for a governor of a state of the United States, and I am hopeful that it will set a precedent that will be followed by other governors in the future. As I am sure you realize, the governor of a state in both of our countries normally devotes himself almost entirely to the pressing domestic concerns of the people of his own state. Foreign affairs and visits to foreign lands are normally left in the hands of the federal government, and occasionally members of the federal legislature. Yet, here am I, the Governor of one of the fifty states of the United States, visiting the State of Rio as the guest of Governor Torres and being given this extraordinary honor by this great Catholic University of Petropolis. Is this unusual? . . . Yes . . . Is it strange? . . . No. The only thing strange about it is that such contacts have not taken place long before this. For it is my firm conviction that we State Representatives—precisely because we are not concerned with so-called “foreign”